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Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

Working paper submitted by China

Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are important components of global nuclear governance with an impact on global and regional peace and stability, as well as the security of all States and the well-being of all people. All parties should focus on global nuclear governance in order to build consensus, enhance cooperation and promote nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a comprehensive, balanced and steady manner. China's basic positions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are as follows:

1. By enhancing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we can help achieve the goals of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in a comprehensive manner and carry forward the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear non-proliferation are complementary to each other. Efforts to promote non-proliferation should not impair the legitimate rights of all countries, especially the developing countries, to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the same time, proliferation activities under cover of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be prohibited. We should also be concerned about the imbalance between supply and demand of nuclear material in some countries, and take effective measures to rectify this situation.

3. Promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and relevant international cooperation is one of the key goals of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Developed countries and IAEA should enhance assistance to developing countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy based on their actual needs.

4. IAEA should maintain an appropriate balance between safeguards and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to help ensure that its various activities enjoy the support and participation of all its members. Adequate resources should be ensured for IAEA activities to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technical cooperation activities. All member States should make full and timely payments to the Technical Cooperation Fund.

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5. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are important to meeting energy needs, ensuring energy security, and addressing climate change. China is developing its nuclear power industry with high efficiency but with nuclear safety as a prerequisite and has developed several nuclear power technologies independently. China would like to share its experience and provide all-round support and assistance to countries that use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

6. Nuclear safety is a guarantee for the sound development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. By learning from experience and from the lessons of nuclear accidents worldwide, China is constantly strengthening nuclear safety measures, rigorously promoting the development of nuclear safety codes, regulations and emergency systems and paying continuous attention to any potential impact of nuclear facilities and activities upon the environment, society and the public.

7. Strengthening nuclear security is of great significance for ensuring the sustainable development of nuclear energy. All countries must follow a rational, coordinated and balanced approach to nuclear security and build an international nuclear security system based on fairness and mutually beneficial cooperation, embodying the principle of placing equal emphasis on development and security, on rights and obligations, and on individual and collaborative efforts. All countries have an obligation to provide physical protection for nuclear materials and nuclear facilities in their territories and ensure the balanced and sound use of sensitive nuclear materials. They must work to consolidate the current international legal framework for nuclear security in order to strengthen international cooperation in this field. They should also take an active part in the Nuclear Security Summit and the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security. IAEA should continue to play a leading role in the area of nuclear security.